

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first paragraph below the title on page 1 as follows;

A1 This application claims the benefit of U.S. priority to provisional application No. 60/226,832, filed on August 22, 2000.

Please amend paragraph [0006] as follows;

A2 [0006] The waste removal device of the present invention comprises a first sheet having an inner surface and a second sheet attached to the first sheet and overlying the inner surface to define an envelope for storing the waste material. The waste removal device further includes a third sheet made from an absorbent material that ~~and~~ overlies the inner surface of the first sheet adjacent to the second sheet.

Please amend paragraph [0014] as follows;

A3 [0014] Figure 5 further illustrates the operation of the waste removal device and subsequent disposal.

Please amend paragraph [0017] as follows;

A4 [0017] The third sheet 20 extends into the envelope 18 defined by the first and second sheets 12,16. The third sheet 20 is flexible to facilitate collection of the waste material. In the preferred embodiment, the third sheet 20 is affixed by gluing, heat sealing or other method of attachment to one of the first and second sheets. More specifically, the first sheet 12 further includes a first end 22 spaced from a top ~~an open~~ edge 30 of the second sheet 16 and the third sheet 20 is permanently affixed by gluing, heat sealing or other method of attachment to the first sheet 12 at the first end 22. By having the absorbent sheet attached only at the top, the device remains soft and flexible so that it can easily encompass the waste material and allow the waste material to be wrapped and manipulated into the envelope 18. It is to be understood, however, that the third sheet 20 could be attached to any portion of the first sheet 12. ~~The attachment of the third sheet 20 is not intended to limit the present invention.~~ The third sheet 20 may be attached to one of the first and second sheets 12,16 by any conventional method including, but not limited to, pressure sealing, heat sealing, stitching, and so on.

Please amend paragraph [0019] as follows;

85 [0019] The first and second sheets 12,16 are flexible and made from plastic. In the preferred embodiment, the first and second sheets 12,16 are made from a clear, lightweight plastic such as that used for plastic sandwich bags and the like. It is to be understood, however, that the first and second sheets can be made from any material including, but not limited to paper, plastic, or other moisture impervious materials. The first and second sheets ~~sheet~~ 12,16 are heat sealed together about the peripheries thereof to form the envelope 18. Heat sealing is only one conventional method that can be used to connect the first and second sheets 12,16. Other conventional methods could also be used, such as, but not limited to, gluing, pressure sealing, stitching and so on. The second sheet 16 further includes first and second side edges 24,26 and a third bottom edge 28 wherein the second sheet 16 is heat sealed to the inner surface 14 of the first sheet 12 along the first and second side edges 24,26 and the third bottom edge 28 to form the envelope. The top open edge 30 of the second sheet 16 and the inner surface 14 of the first sheet 12 define an opening 32 of the envelope 18 for guiding the waste material into the envelope 18. In the preferred embodiment, the waste removal device 10 is very lightweight and highly flexible and is intended to be a single-use, disposable device.

Please amend paragraph [0023] as follows;

86 [0023] The first and second side edges 24,26 are of substantially equal length. The first sheet 12 includes a longitudinal edge 34 which, in the preferred embodiment, is at least twice the length of each of the first and second side edges 24,26 of the second sheet 16. In additional embodiments, the longitudinal edge 34 of the first sheet 12 is at least three times the length of each of the first and second side edges 24,26 of the second sheet 16. ~~While it~~ It is preferred that the longitudinal edge 34 be at least twice the length of each of the first and second side edges 24,26, ~~this is not intended to limit the present invention.~~

Please amend the **ABSTRACT** as follows;

87 A waste removal device for collecting waste material is disclosed. The waste removal device comprises a first sheet having an inner surface and a second sheet attached to the first

sheet and overlying the inner surface to define an envelope for storing the waste material. The waste removal device also includes a third sheet made from an absorbent material that overlies ~~and overlying~~ the inner surface of the first sheet adjacent to the second sheet. The third sheet is intended to contact the waste material while the waste removal device is being used and the first sheet is intended to provide added protection to a user by protecting the user from the waste material.
